

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W

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R 291755Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1782

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 5165

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, YO

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV-PRC RELATIONS AND TITO'S FORTHCOMING

PEKING VISIT

1. AS ADDRESSEES AWARE, TITO WILL BE VISITING PEKING IN
LATE AUGUST OR EARLY SEPTEMBER FOLLOWING STOPS IN SOVIET
UNION AND D.P.R.K. PEKING VISIT HAS ALREADY DRAWN
FOREIGN PRESS COMMENTARY PORTRAYING IT AS HIGH WATER MARK
IN WHAT HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN STEADY IMPROVEMENT IN GOY-
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PRC RELATIONS. WHILE WISHING TO RESERVE JUDGMENT ON
EXTENT OF "IMPROVEMENT" UNTIL WE HAVE SEEN MOVEMENT IN
SPECIFIC AREAS SUCH AS BILATERAL TRADE OR PARTY-TO-
PARTY TIES, WE HAVE NOTED WITH INTEREST THE FOLLOWING
RECENT HIGH-LEVEL CONLSCTS:

--TEN-DAY VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA IN MAY OF PRC NATIONAL

PEOPLE'S CONGRESS DELEGATION HEADED BY POLITBURO
ALTERNATE MEMBER SAI FU-DIN (TRANJUG SPELLING);

--TEN-DAY VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA IN JUNE OF PRC WAR
"VETERANS" DELEGATION HEADED BY PLA DEPUTY CHIEF
OF STAFF WU HSIU-CHUAN (TRANJUG SPELLING);

--EARLY JULY VISIT TO PEKING OF YUGOSLAV YOUTH
FEDERATION (OMLADINA) DELEGATION HEADED BY
OMLADINA PRESIDENT AZEM VLASI; AND

--MID-JULY VISIT TO PEKING OF YUGOSLAV LCY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MUNIR MESIHOVIC, WHO
WAS RECEIVED BY PRC VICE PREMIER KU MU.

2. YUGOSLAV PRESS COVERAGE OF ABOVE VISITS HAS BEEN
PREDICTABLY DEVOID OF COMMENT ON ANY SUBSTANTIVE TALKS
WHICH MAY HAVE TAKEN PLACE. TONE OF COVERAGE HAS BEEN
CONSISTENTLY UPBEAT AND IMPRESSION HAS BEEN CONVEYED
THAT RELATIONS MAY BE BROADENING. BUT JULY 19 EDITION
OF "POLITIKA" CARRIED STORY ON PRC NATIONAL PEOPLE'S
CONGRESS VISIT WHICH WAS OBVIOUSLY A LITTLE TOO UPBEAT.
IT REPORTED FEDERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT GLIGOROV AS
HAVING TOLD ASSEMBLY FOREIGN POLICY COMMITTEE FOLLOWING
VISIT THAT PRC HAD EXPRESSED ITS READINESS TO ENGAGE
IN "LASTING COOPERATION IN ALL AREAS", THAT GOY HAD
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IMPRESSION "OUR GUESTS WERE PREPARED TO CROSS OVER
THE DEEP IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES SEPARATING THE TWO
COUNTRIES". THE NEXT DAY "POLITIKA" PUBLISHED AN
"EXPLANATION" AND FORMAL APOLOGY TO GLIGOROV FOR HAVING
"INCORRECTLY TRANSMITTED" CERTAIN OF HIS REMARKS.
"EXPLANATION" TONED DOWN CONSIDERABLY WHAT GLIGOROV
WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE SAID, E.G. "BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED
THE NEED TO DEVELOP EVER GREATER COOPERATION IN ALL
AREAS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS". THERE WAS "MUTUAL
APPRECIATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF POINTS OF CONTACT AND
NEARNESS OF VIEWS ON MANY INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS".

3. AS FURTHER ILLUSTRATION, HOWEVER, OF AT LEAST THE
CONTINUING APPEARANCE FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT OF
IMPROVEMENT IN GOY-PRC RELATIONS, GOY MADE HIGHLY
UNUSUAL GESTURE JULY 27 OF HOSTING FORMAL RECEPTION IN
HONOR OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF CHINESE
PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY.

4. AMBASSADOR RAISED SUBJECT CURRENT STATE GOY-PRC
RELATIONS DURING JULY 28 CALL ON HIS PRC COUNTERPART,
CHANG HAI-FENG. TO AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT THAT HE HAD

IMPRESSION YUGOSLAVS ARE INTERESTED IN PARTY-TO-PARTY

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USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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TIES WITH PRC, CHANG RESPONDED MERLY THAT "TITO
WILL BE RECEIVED AS A STATE VISITOR", ADDING "I
HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I MEAN". BUT CHANG SAID
CHINESE EXPECT TITO'S PEKING VISIT TO DEMONSTRATE
"MUCH IMPROVED" BILATERAL RELATIONS.

5. CHANG AVERRED THAT TITO'S TRIP TO MOSCOW IS
BEING UNDERTAKEN PARTLY TO OFFSET HIS VISIT TO
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PEKING AND SAID CHINESE UNDERSTAND SOVIETS ARE "FURIOUS" ABOUT TITO'S CHINA VISIT. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, "BUT WE UNDERSTAND WHY TITO MUST GO TO MOSCOW". TWICE DURING CONVERSATION CHANG ENDED STATEMENT WITH PHRASE "WE ALL KNOW WHO THE ENEMY IS".

6. (DEPARTMENT NOTE: CHANG RAISED WITH AMBASSADOR WHAT HE CHARACTERIZED AS "YUGOSLAVS' EXPRESSIONS OF UNHAPPINESS TO THE CHINESE ABOUT THE AMERICANS NOT BEING RELIABLE SUPPLIERS OF MILITARY WEAPONS". HE CLAIMED CHINESE HAVE ENCOURAGED YUGOSLAVS TO DIVERSIFY THEIR SOURCES OF MILITARY SUPPLY AND SAID CHINESE HOPE US WILL BE ABLE TO SELL YUGOSLAVS MORE --THE LATTER A PERSISTENT THEME OF CHINESE CONVERSATION WITH US IN RECENT YEARS.)

7. COMMENT: IT REMAINS OUR ESTIMATE THAT GOY-PRC PARTY-TO-PARTY TIES ARE STILL SOME WAY OFF. IN THIS REGARD, WE HAVE HEARD THAT LCY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY STANE DOLANC WILL ACCOMPANY TITO TO THE SOVIET UNION, BUT NOT GO ON TO PEKING.

8. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT LINKAGE ASSERTED BY CERTAIN FOREIGN PRESS COMMENTATORS BETWEEN IMPROVING GOY-PRC RELATIONS (AS EVIDENCED BY TITO'S PEKING VISIT) AND APPARENTLY DETERIORATING PRC-ALBANIAN TIES IS OVER-DRAWN. WHILE THERE MAY BE BAD BLOOD BETWEEN TITO AND HOXHA FOR REASONS OTHER THAN TIRANA'S CONTINUING ANTI-YUGOSLAV REVISIONISM, ANTI-NON-ALIGNMENT DIATRIBES, WE BELIEVE ALBANIA'S EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN FOR YUGOSLAV SECURITY AND SOLIDARITY WITH YUGOSLAVIA WERE LATTER'S SECURITY TO BE THREATENED TO BE SINCERE, WELL-FOUNDED AND OF PARAMOUNT CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPORTANCE. IMPROVEMENT IN CHINESE-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS MAY BE ONE ELEMENT IN CHINESE-ALBANIAN FRICTION BUT WE DO NOT SEE IT AS BEING OF SAME LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE AS CHINESE AID, GROUP OF FOUR, ALBANIAN EMANCIPATION - RELATED PROBLEMS. EAGLEBURGER

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